



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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October 13, 2015

TO: Chief School Administrators  
Charter School Lead Persons  
Nonpublic School Administrators  
PARCC Coordinators  
PARCC IT Contacts

FROM: Evo Popoff, Assistant Commissioner/Chief Innovation Officer  
Division of Charter Schools, School Choice, Technology, Turnarounds

SUBJECT: Digital Learning Initiative/NJTRAx October 20 Webinar/NJTRAx Data Update Request -  
**Deadline November 20**

As part of a long-term Digital Learning Initiative (DLI), the Office of Educational Technology launched the Digital Readiness for Learning and Assessment Project in Summer 2013, by focusing on supporting the technology readiness of schools so that students could be assessed online. While the work of technology readiness for online assessments continues, the focus of the DLI has evolved to support digital learning. As part of this shift, several components of the DLI will be released or implemented over the course of the next few months. These components include:

- A technical update to NJTRAx (<http://njdigitallearning.org/njtrax/>) that incorporates changes for the 2016 PARCC Spring Assessment, so districts and schools can accurately gauge their technology readiness for these tests.
- The addition of new Digital Learning surveys to NJTRAx this fall that will give districts and schools the ability to track and strategically plan for digital learning policies and practices.
- The intended release of a Notice of Grant Opportunity (NGO) focused on digital learning and PARCC readiness.
- The publication of Classroom Application Documents for the revised Technology Standard 8 this fall, as well as guidance regarding the assessment of Standard 8.
- Support for district-based activities such as the [Jersey Shore Regional Maker Fest](#) at Toms River on October 17.

Regarding the updates to NJTRAx, they reflect changes in the administration of the 2016 PARCC Spring Assessment as well as the latest PARCC technology specifications. Please have a representative from your school or district log onto NJTRAx (<http://njdigitallearning.org/njtrax/>) and refresh the records for the district and for each school, including updating student enrollments and device and networking inventories. **Please update the data in NJTRAx by November 20, 2015.** We are requesting this data refresh in order to be able to properly plan support activities for districts and schools that may need assistance in preparing for the 2016 PARCC Spring Assessment.

- **Changes in the administration of the 2016 PARCC Spring Assessments:**
  - The testing window is now 30 days (changed from 20 days).

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- The required number of testing sessions for grades 3-5 is eight (8 – accounts for a possible field test session).
- The required number of testing sessions for grades 6-11 is seven (7 – accounts for a possible field test session).
- **Changes as per the latest PARCC technology specifications:**
  - Firefox browser version requirements updated to version 38+
  - Chrome OS requirements updated to version 43+
  - Operating systems no longer supported: Windows Vista, Windows XP, MacOS 10.6, iOS 7
  - Browser versions no longer supported: Internet Explorer 9, Internet Explorer 10, Safari 5.x, Google Chrome (all versions).
    - Please note that Chromebooks are supported but the Chrome Internet browser for other operating systems, such as Windows or MacOS, will not be supported due to Java Plugin issues.

Please note that as part of the DLI, NJTRAx will soon become an interactive tool to gauge digital readiness not just for online assessments but also for digital learning. To this end, **the device inventory in NJTRAx needs to be updated to include all devices used for digital learning** – not just the devices used for online assessments. In order to determine if a device is used for digital learning, a new field has been added to the device input screen in NJTRAx. Besides asking if a device is used for testing, there will also be a checkbox to select if a device is used for digital learning. If a device is used for both testing and digital learning, then both checkboxes (“Used For Testing” and “Used For Digital Learning”) should be selected.

Devices in NJTRAx need to be associated with a room in the school. In order to facilitate the input of digital learning devices into NJTRAx, one can opt to create a **single room** for all of the digital learning devices that are **only** used for digital learning and not for PARCC assessments. If this option is used, **please name the room “Digital Learning Only”** in order to facilitate review of the data at the state level. If a digital learning device is used for PARCC assessments, it cannot be assigned to this room.

We are requesting that you include all devices used for digital learning so that when NJTRAx 2.0 is launched this fall, you will be able to accurately gauge your readiness for digital learning. Without this additional data, you will not be able to take advantage of the full functionality of the improved NJTRAx system.

An *Introduction to NJTRAx* webinar will be held on October 20, 2015 from 10 A.M. – 12 P.M. The webinar is intended for those users who are new to NJTRAx or who would like to review how to use and navigate the system.

To join the webinar from a computer, tablet or smartphone, please go to <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/905511341>. Please use your microphone and speakers (VOIP) for audio. You'll experience the best audio with a headset. If you cannot make the live webinar, a link to the archived session will be available at [www.njdigitallearning.org](http://www.njdigitallearning.org) by the following day. Should you need assistance or have questions, please contact: [parccrt@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:parccrt@doe.state.nj.us).

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